

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T BANGKOK 24763

NODIS

EA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, VM, TH
SUBJ: PHAM VAN DONG'S VISIT TO THAILAND

1. OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS THAILAND WILL BECOME, EVEN MORE THAN THIS SUMMER, THE FOCUS OF ENORMOUS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY, THE HIGHLIGHTS BEING THE EARLY SEPT. VISIT OF PHAM VAN DONG AND THE VISIT IN NOVEMBER OF TENG HSIAO-P'ING. WHILE I HAVE TALKED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, BY AND LARGE I HAVE STAYED AWAY FROM DISCUSSING IN DETAIL OR COMMENTING ON THESE VISITS EXCEPT FOR SOME BASIC INFORMATIONAL QUESTIONS.

2. CONCEIVABLY THIS STANCE MAY BE THE RIGHT ONE, SINCE THE THAIS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK OUT ON THEIR OWN HOW TO BALANCE THEIR INTERESTS AMONG CHINA, VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND THEIR ASEAN PARTNERS. THEY SEEM TO BE GOING ABOUT THIS REASONABLY WELL WITHOUT ADDING OUR TWO CENTS. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NOT YET WORKED OUT HOW THEY WILL HANDLE THE DONG VISIT AND THEY APPEAR TO BE TREATING THE VISIT AND VIETNAMESE DEMANDS FOR A FRIENDSHIP TREATY AND A STATEMENT ON THE ZONE OF PEACE WITH CONCERN AND

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UNCERTAINTY. NOR DO THEY APPEAR TO BE SEEKING ANY ADVANTAGE FROM THE FACT THAT IT IS VIETNAM THAT URGENTLY SSEKS THIS VISIT AND DESPERATELY WANTS FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH ALL THE ASEAN STATES.

3. IF THERE ARE ANY VIEWS THE DEPT. THINKS I SHOULD PASS ALONG TO THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE THE DONG VISIT, PLEASE LET ME HAVE THEM BEFORE THE SEPT. 4 SESSION OF THE

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AT WHICH THEY WILL FINALIZE THEIR
POLICY POSITIONS. AT A MINIMUM, I THINK WE SHOULD TELL
KRIANGSAK SOMETHING OF OUR OWN PLANS ON VIETNAM BEFORE
THE DONG VISIT. I AM CONFIDENT THAT ANYTHING WE TELL HIM
IN CONFIDENCE WILL NOT LEAK. WE HAVE A LONG EXPERIENCE
WITH KRIANGSAK AND HE KEEPS OUR CONFIDENCES. ABRAMOWITZ

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NNN

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